

A Guide to North Carolina Bicycle and Pedestrian Laws

PART - 4



**Guidebook on
General Statutes,
Ordinances,
and Resources**



North Carolina Department
of Transportation
Division of Bicycle &
Pedestrian Transportation

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*Laws are subject to change by the
North Carolina General Assembly.
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North Carolina Department
of Transportation
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Pedestrian Transportation

Disclaimer

Every attempt has been made to provide complete and thorough information on the North Carolina laws pertaining to bicycles and pedestrians. Neither ITRE nor NCDOT can be held responsible for any exclusions, omissions nor deletions of relevant laws. If you have questions or concerns regarding North Carolina law pertaining to bicycles or pedestrians, you may wish to consult an attorney.

Produced by the Institute for Transportation Research and Education at North Carolina State University for the North Carolina Department of Transportation Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation.

Access an electronic version of this document at
[http://www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle/laws/resources/
lawsguidebook.html](http://www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle/laws/resources/lawsguidebook.html).

Permission to reproduce this document may be obtained by contacting the Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation, 1552 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1552 or via email at bikeped_transportation@dot.nc.us.

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Other Responsibilities

Although the law prescribes certain actions for bicyclists and pedestrians, other actions or issues are not specifically addressed in North Carolina's General Statutes. For example, policies approved by the North Carolina Board of Transportation or the North Carolina Department of Transportation Maintenance Manual govern other behaviors and have the same legal standing as any statute. This section discusses topics affecting bicyclists and pedestrians that are not specifically mentioned in the statutes.

Regarding Bicycles

Bicycling on the Interstate

Under North Carolina General Statute 143B-350(f)(1), the North Carolina Board of Transportation can set policies that shall stand as law. A policy adopted by the Board of Transportation specifically prohibits bicycling on interstate or fully controlled, limited access highways, such as beltlines, unless the Board determines otherwise. The policy provides for exceptions to be made on a case-by-case basis. More information about North Carolina Board of Transportation policies is available on the Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Web site: http://www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle/laws/laws_intro.html.

Riding Two or More Abreast

There is no law that requires bicyclists to ride single file, nor is there a law that gives cyclists the right to ride two or more abreast. Some other states address this issue in their statutes, but there is no consistent treatment. It is always important to ride responsibly and courteously, so that cars may pass safely.

Headphones

There is no law that prohibits wearing headphones when riding a bicycle, however, it is not recommended. It is important to use all your senses to ensure your safety when riding in traffic.

Riding on Sidewalks

The General Statutes do not address bicycling on sidewalks. Rather this issue is usually addressed through local ordinances. Please refer to the section on Local Ordinances on page 24 of this guide.

Regarding Pedestrians

Definition of Pedestrian

The North Carolina General Statutes do not include a definition of pedestrian.

Hitchhiking on Interstates

Chapter 2 of the North Carolina Department of Transportation Maintenance Manual, Section GO-10 makes it unlawful to hitchhike or solicit rides on an interstate or fully controlled access highway, except in the case of an emergency or vehicle failure.

Rollerblades and Skateboards

The General Statutes do not address rollerblades or skateboards. These issues are sometimes governed by local ordinances. Please refer to the section on Local Ordinances on page 24 of this guide.

More Information

The section at the end of this guidebook entitled “Links to Resources,” on page 67 lists online resources related to bicycle and pedestrian laws.